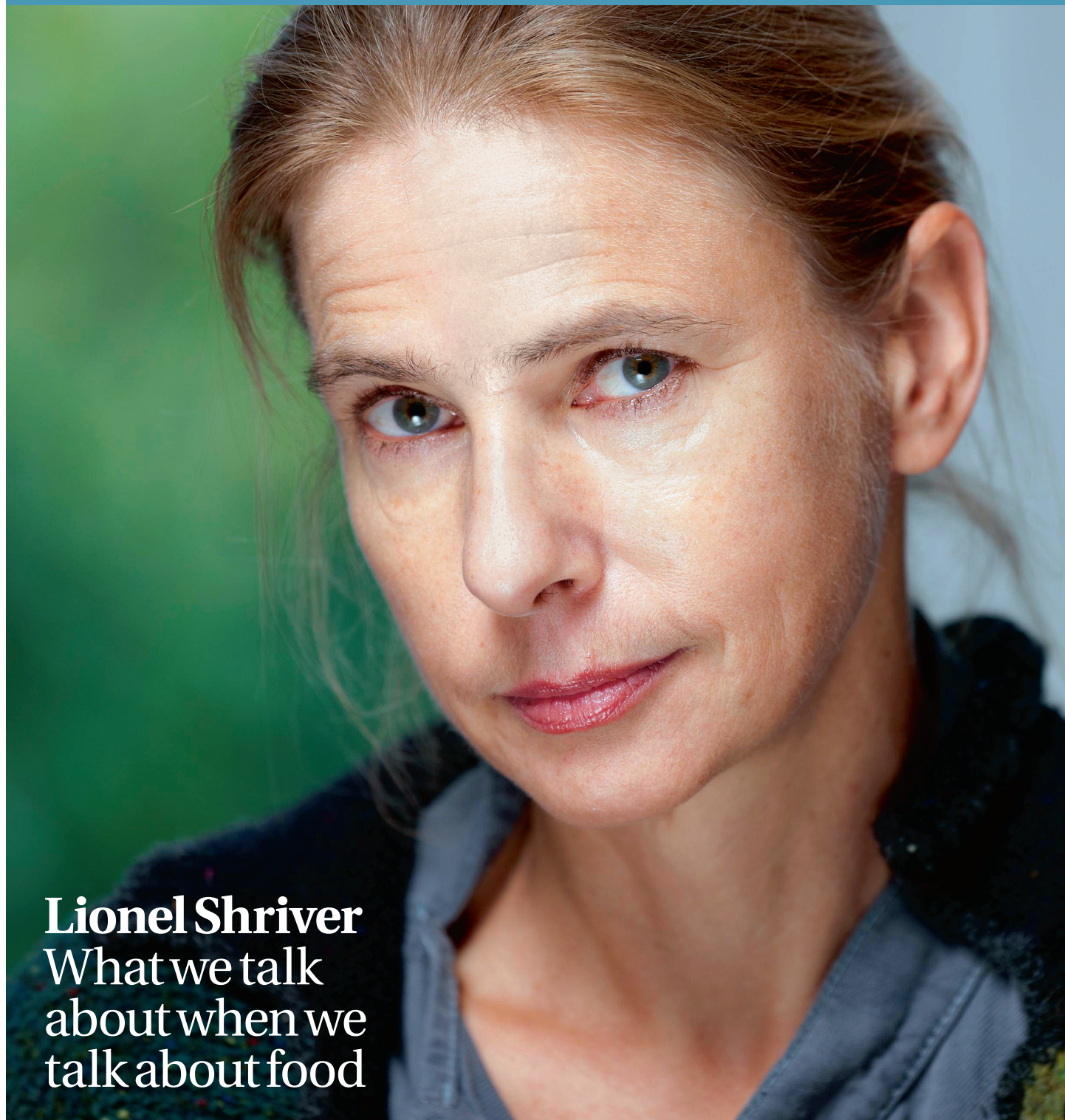


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Lionel Shriver
What we talk
about when we
talk about food

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gets on the
Great Gatsby
roller coaster



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says embrace the
child you have, not
the one you want



StandUp

Dara Ó Briain, Jo
Brand, Ed Byrne,
Sandi Toksvig, Lee
Mack – and more!

We need to shut up about size

Cover story Her new novel is all about fat, but **Lionel Shriver** argues it's time we stopped obsessing about our weight

Growing up in America, I was a picky eater. Lunch was a pain; I'd rather have kept playing. During an athletic adolescence I ate whatever I liked, impervious to the calorie-counting anxieties of my classmates. At 17, I summered in Britain with a much heavier girlfriend. After hitting multiple bakeries, we'd laze for hours in Hyde Park. My younger brother later confided the shock of meeting my returning plane: "I couldn't believe it! You were fat!"

So began my unpleasant introduction to a neurosis that most had contracted years before. I'd lost my innocence. Lo, I could not eat whatever I liked. Thus to the outside eye the weight fluctuations of my young adulthood would have appeared modest, but behind closed doors binges on bagels would be followed by fasts – first of three days, then four, then five, a week.

In my early thirties I did two fasts of 21 days apiece. We're not talking juice fasts or 500-calorie-per-day fasts, either; all I consumed was coffee and herbal tea. Do not try this at home. Some 15 years ago I embraced a habit that has kept my frame-steady state: give or take the odd oatcake, I eat one meal a day. By dinnertime, I'm starving; more crucially, I'm deserving. The regimen is a surprisingly successful attempt to impose my old innocence.

Before, the most precious aspect of my relationship to food was not having to think

about it. In retrospect, that very obliviousness must have helped to keep me slim.

So perhaps one solution to our present-day dietary woes is to restore a measure of casualness about daily sustenance. We think about food too much. We impute far too much significance, sociologically, psychologically and morally, to how much people weigh. Worst of all, we impute too much significance to how much we weigh ourselves. Unrelenting self-torture over poundage is ruining countless people's lives, and I don't mean only those with eating disorders.

My call to demote the import of size might seem commercially perverse. My new novel, *Big Brother*, is all about fat. Shouldn't I instead be clamouring about what a terrible health crisis overeating has wrought?

I am painfully acquainted with the potential consequences of poor diet. Three years ago, when I was 52, I lost my older brother to the complications of obesity, and it's because I've seen the social travails of a large man up close that I'm so distressed by how much mere body mass appears to convey. My brother was politically astute, technologically brilliant and often very funny. But once he got big, all strangers saw was some fat guy.

What traits do we instinctively ascribe to the obese? We once assumed they were jolly; now we assume they're miserable. However heavyweights might incline us to pity, that sympathy evaporates the moment they encroach on our space – crowding our bus seats, spilling over our airline armrests. Notorious for commanding more than their share of resources, they're apt to draw glares in NHS waiting rooms. So they're



To be, or not to be:
everything she possibly can be.

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Frame-steady state: Lionel Shriver eats one meal a day

selfish, too. That's a shocking amount of information – much of it bound to be false – to glean from a glance.

What we project on the skeletally skinny isn't much kinder. They're probably a little crazy – more terrified of treacle tarts than tarantulas. We associate the killjoy-thin with imperiousness, haughtiness, joylessness and vanity. They think they're so great, when oftentimes they look awful. One presumption's a safe bet: they still wish they were even thinner.

We've also come to equate a slender figure with virtue and success. If someone you haven't seen for a while shows up noticeably thickened, you're apt to suspect that a marriage is going south, that a work situation is deteriorating, that this person is unhappy. On that last point, you might be right.

The biggest victims of this bizarre equivalence between thinness and goodness are ourselves. On any given day, the mental energy we collectively waste on debating whether to have another biscuit, berating ourselves for having finished the chocolate and vowing yet again to start an all-liquid diet "tomorrow" would electrify California.

I don't refer only to other people. Last year an elderly neighbour said I'd put on weight. I hadn't put on weight. She wasn't used to seeing me with my hair down. But that single remark tortured me for weeks. Is that pathetic, or what?

Meanwhile, the whole culture seems in cahoots to fix our focus on food. Between adverts for WeightWatchers and Domino's Pizza, the television line-up is crammed with *Supersize vs Superskinny* and *The Biggest Loser* on the one hand, on the other *The Great British Bake-Off* and *Masterchef*.

Righteous calls for caloric moderation still encourage us literally to navel-gaze, thereby reinforcing a grotesque sense of disproportion that may not be merely part of the problem, but the problem.

Historically, it wasn't that long ago that we were slaves to our stomachs – farming, foraging and hunting the livelong day to survive. The great advantage to widely available, affordable food really ought to be release from this unrelenting struggle to feed ourselves. Instead, we now devote the same energies trying to not feed ourselves, and have therefore installed a whole new slavery.

Lionel Shriver speaks at 1pm today in Google's Big Tent [Event 41]. 'Big Brother' is published by HarperCollins.

RICK PUSHINSKY

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.
And then to put your feet up.

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Gatsby and all that

Feature Baz Luhrmann's film is the cherry on the cake of a lavish, year-long party in honour of the book, says **David Gritten**

In 1974, *Time* magazine ran a cover story titled "The Great Gatsby Supersell", with a photo of Robert Redford and Mia Farrow, the stars of that year's film adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel.

Four decades on, *Gatsby*-mania is again running rampant, largely due to Baz Luhrmann's eagerly awaited film adaptation, with Leonardo DiCaprio as the self-made Jay Gatsby and Carey Mulligan as the callow, capricious love of his life, Daisy Buchanan.

But this time around, there's more to *Gatsby*-mania than a film. In Britain alone, Northern Ballet staged a dance piece inspired by the novel, while in the East End of London, Wilton's music hall hosted an "immersive" theatrical adaptation, in which the audience dressed in Twenties style and mingled with the actors at a Gatsbyesque party.

In the West End last summer, *Gatz* was a wildly imaginative stage show, set in a shabby New York office; performances lasted more than eight hours, and incorporated a reading of the entire novel out loud. Meanwhile, over in Islington, North London, the King's Head Theatre offered a musical version.

And next week sees the publication of *Careless People*, in which Sarah Churchwell traces the chaotic, drunken, glamorous story behind *The Great Gatsby*, including the true-life murder mystery that inspired the novel.

All this activity in the space of a year – and 3,000 miles east of the novel's setting at that. (How excited must people be in New York!) It suggests that the level of interest in all things *Gatsby* has become ever present.

So how can we account for this apparently bottomless fascination? It's a relatively short novel (fewer than 50,000 words), with a title character who is described only sketchily and who speaks largely in banalities.

Yet Fitzgerald's jewel-like prose tells a tale of doomed romanticism: Jimmy Gatz, a poor farm boy from the Midwest, meets Daisy, falls in love, loses her and spends his life trying to win her back. Reinventing himself as the stylish Jay Gatsby, he gets rich, and buys a Long Island mansion across the water from where Daisy lives with Tom, her rich, brutish husband. There he throws lavish parties, convinced they will pique Daisy's interest: she will arrive, they will reunite. Meanwhile, at night, he gazes wistfully at the light at the end of Daisy's dock.

There's a strong case to be made that the novel's broader appeal lies in its glittering surface – Fitzgerald's spot-on evocation of the Jazz Age, a time when people had cast off the shackles of a grim previous decade in the shadow of the First World War, and decided to seek pleasures and freedoms for their own sake, no matter what the cost.

There are those who argue that the plot of the novel is almost incidental to its appeal. David Nixon, the artistic director of Northern Ballet, who directed, choreographed and



Carey Mulligan and Leonardo DiCaprio as Daisy and Jay in *The Great Gatsby*

designed the costumes for the company's *Gatsby*, says: "People just love that Twenties era – the glamour, the music, the clothes. It's easily conjured in their imaginations."

Given the novel's evanescent nature, it's unsurprising that none of the previous adaptations ever finds its way on to lists of greatest-ever films. Maybe Luhrmann can pull it off. It could be the right time for him to do so; all those *Gatsby* productions across various media suggest there's something in the zeitgeist. One need not look too hard for parallels between our times and *Gatsby*'s.

The Jazz Age began in earnest in 1922, the year in which Fitzgerald's novel is set, with a steep growth in conspicuous consumption, advertising and sales of cars; it ended seven years later with the Wall Street crash. In the

past decade, we have also seen the end of a prosperous era, with the economic meltdown that began in 2008.

Our obsession with celebrity and gossip was thriving in the Jazz Age, too. And our rage about bankers' bonuses, rich tax avoiders and foreign plutocrats buying up swathes of London while life gets harder for the poor is mirrored in the inequality portrayed by Fitzgerald: an acute social critic, he dwells on "the valley of ashes", a vile dumping ground between Manhattan and Long Island, where Tom's mistress and her gloomy garage mechanic live.

Sarah Churchwell, author of 'Careless People: Murder, Mayhem and the Invention of The Great Gatsby' (published by Virago), talks to Sarah Crompton at 11.30am today in Google's Big Tent [Event 35]. A longer version of this piece can be read at telegraph.co.uk/culture

jazz



Freedom of speech

Love the child you have, not the child who might have been



Andrew Solomon

A parent's challenge is steeper with a child who is different

Parenthood requires a great deal of imagination: we must project our children's futures and then help to create the lives they've envisioned. We must do this with an awareness that what we dream of for our children is not always the same as what they dream of, that who we expect them to be is seldom who they turn out to be. When you have a child who is fundamentally different, the challenge grows steeper.

I began my book *Far From the Tree* with this question in mind. I sought out stories of children who had presented every obvious challenge to their parents' love, but who had been loved anyway. The research took me to Rwanda, the slums of Guatemala City, a prison in Northumberland, and towns in middle America. I did not find that these parents led easy lives; in fact, their lives were almost insanely difficult. But few regretted their difficult lives. Mothers in particular talked about how dealing with difficulty had deepened their bond.

Barbara Matusky has two deaf children and became an activist in the deaf community. She said: "If I'd had hearing kids, I would have worked and they would have gone to childcare. Having deaf kids made me a much better mother. I like fighting for the cause. I like empowering people."

Betty Adelson, whose daughter is a dwarf, ended up becoming an authority on dwarfism. She said: "If Anna had been average, would my world have been narrower? Yes. I recognise the gift that's been given. If someone had said to me, 'Betty, how'd you like to give birth to a lesbian dwarf?' I wouldn't have checked that box. But she is Anna, cornerstone of the family. I wish the road had not been so

steep for her, but I'm so glad she managed to climb it with grace."

Shirley Bell, mother of the great violinist and prodigy Joshua Bell, is frustrated by having a child beyond her comprehension. Yet she loves him only the more for it. She said: "Deep down, he's a little bit of an enigma. I think that's why people are drawn to him, because they can't know him. Neither can I. I couldn't comfort him when he was an infant, and in some ways, that's never changed. I think that's part of the nature of his genius, and it breaks my heart."

Cora Nelson's 13-year-old son had been sexually abusing her six-year-old granddaughter. Cora saw to it that he went to jail but said to him: "This is the absolute worst thing you could have done. I couldn't have imagined anything this bad, and I can't imagine anything worse. But now I know. And I'm still your mother, and I

“If someone had asked me: how would you like to give birth to a lesbian dwarf, I wouldn't have ticked that box

still love you.” When he got out two years later, he was transformed: open, engaging and determined to live a good life. He had made his restitution, supported by such affection.

My own children were born when I was working on this book. People kept asking how I could decide to have a family in the middle of writing about everything that can go wrong. But *Far From the Tree* is not a book about everything that can go wrong; it's a book about how parents can find joy in their children no matter who those children are — about how they can embrace the children they have, not to imagine a life with other children. It's about loving what is, rather than what might be.

Andrew Solomon speaks at 4pm today in the Sky Arts Studio [Event 53]. *Far from the Tree* is published by Chatto & Windus

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GK Crossword

Every Saturday in The Daily Telegraph Kate Mepham produces the GK Crossword, a mind-bending General Knowledge conundrum. How fast can you complete it?

The GK Crossword

By Kate Mepham

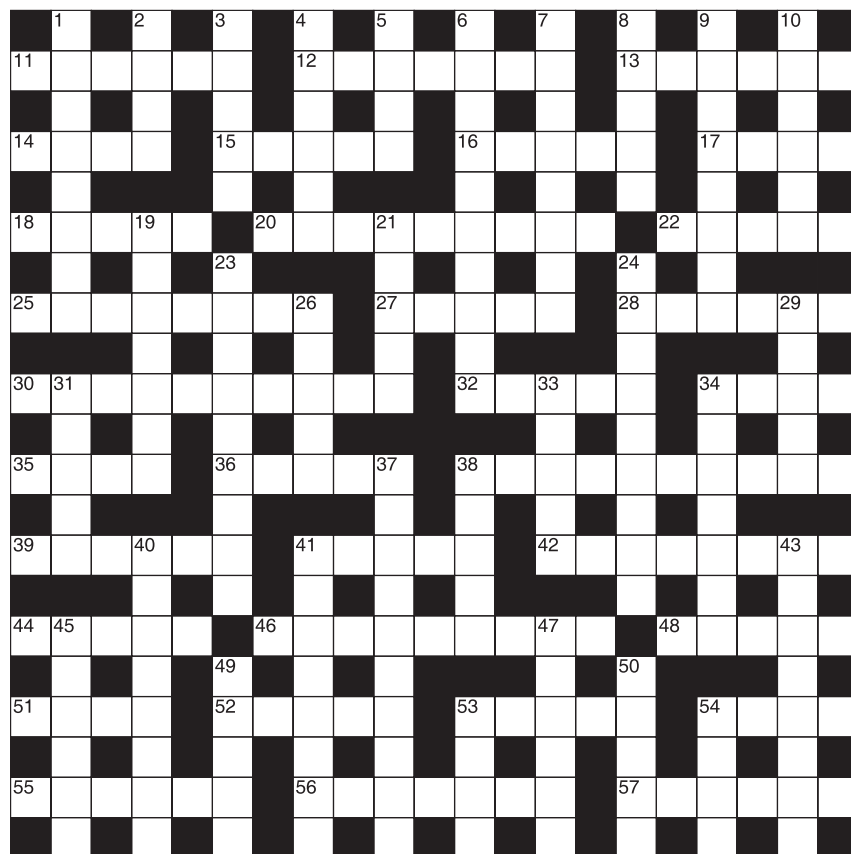
Across

11 Stage name of the singer-songwriter born Charlotte Reed whose albums include *Voice of an Angel* and *Back to Scratch* (6)
12 Former greengrocer who presents the UK version of *MasterChef* with John Torode (7)
13 US markswoman who was a star attraction in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show for 17 years (6)
14 English poet and Cambridge University professor best known for his *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* (4)
15 A twin crystal or diamond; also another term for a chialolite (5)
16 The jack in bowls or the combined pool of money in some gambling card games (5)
17 Mrs Humphry —; English anti-suffrage campaigner who wrote various novels including *Robert Elsmere* and *Lady Rose's Daughter* (4)
18 The name of the sheriff character in the *Toy Story* series of animated movies, voiced by Tom Hanks (5)
20 Optional picture or background pattern on a computer screen, mobile phone or other device (9)
22 Booker Prize-winning author who wrote *Oscar and Lucinda* and *True History of the Kelly Gang* (5)
25 Internal structure of the human body consisting of 300 bones when newborn and 206 when adult (8)
27 Lightweight satin shoes for ballet (5)
28 Chemical element, atomic number 88, discovered in 1898 by Marie and Pierre Curie (6)
30 Maurice —; player for the Chicago White Sox baseball team from 1923-25 (10)
32 Prime minister preceded by the Duke of Grafton and succeeded by the Marquess of Rockingham (5)
34 Small, rich and buttery yeast cake soaked in rum, typically served with whipped cream (4)
35 Specialist type of furnace

for baking, calcining or drying bricks, hops, limestone or pottery (4)
36 — *House*; 1852-53 novel by Charles Dickens, partly narrated by its heroine Esther Summerson (5)
38 Capital of the Alsace region of France, situated on the left bank of the Rhine (10)
39 French Baroque harpsichord composer and music theorist who wrote *Treatise on Harmony* (6)
41 One of Jim Henson's characters in *The Muppet Show* (5)
42 French region which gave its name to a variety of quiche with a Gruyère cheese and bacon filling (8)
44 East African equatorial country that was the scene of the Mau Mau uprising between 1952 and 1960 (5)
46 The decisive British naval victory of the Napoleonic Wars (9)
48 A letter of the Greek alphabet and a codeword used in radio communication (5)
51 V-shaped pad on the underside of a horse or pony's hoof acting as a shock absorber (4)
52 City in West Yorkshire (5)
53 Small band of jazz musicians; also a type of guitar amplifier with an integral speaker (5)
54 Brightly-coloured anchored float serving as a warning or guide (4)
55 Coniferous evergreen tree related to cedars, firs, hemlocks and pines (6)
56 Volcanic island near the Arctic Circle, site of Eyjafjallajökull (7)
57 Form of dance depicted by Edgar Degas in many of his paintings (6)

Down

1 UK television crime drama series starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman and Una Stubbs (8)
2 Nest of a squirrel or possum (4)
3 The thick end of a loin of lamb (5)
4 Standard monetary unit of Zambia and Malawi (6)
5 The colour of the Park



Lane and Mayfair spaces on a standard London Monopoly board (4)
6 Board game for two players, each with 15 checkers, two dice and a doubling cube (10)
7 1989 movie starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater; also a group of plants in the Ericaceae family (8)
8 With a population of more than 8.8 million, the capital of Japan (5)
9 Horse with a coat of irregular patches of brown and white (8)
10 The patron saint of England (6)
19 Any of more than 30 species of marine mammal related to whales and porpoises (7)
21 Cottage garden herbaceous perennial with tall tapering spikes of vivid purple-blue flowers (5)
23 Chemical element of the lanthanide series, named after the Swedish village where it was discovered (9)
24 Instrumental ensemble combining brass, percussion, string and woodwind sections (9)
26 Internal iridescent layer

of various mollusc shells, alternatively called mother-of-pearl (5)
29 Natural clay earth pigment (5)
31 Indian dip-like yoghurt condiment flavoured with cucumber, coriander, cumin and mint (5)
33 Description of a non-urbanised, typically agricultural area with a low population density (5)
34 Sumptuous silk textile embellished with gold or silver thread (7)
37 Blue and orange bird typically spotted diving for fish from a riverside perch (10)
38 Cylindrical device attached to a fishing rod for winding the line (5)
40 The genus name of sea holly (8)
41 Evergreen shrub in the coffee family with highly-fragrant waxy white or pale yellow flowers (8)
43 Gas forming more than 78 per cent of the earth's atmosphere (8)
45 Mythological Phoenician princess (6)
47 Large fleet of armed warships (6)
49 Actor who starred in

Annie Hall (5)
50 English cricketer who was nicknamed The Master (5)
53 Cassius Marcellus —, Jr; birth name of the boxer Muhammad Ali (4)
54 Clarinet player best known for his piece *Stranger on the Shore* (4)

Answers to the crossword and the Children's Puzzles are on page 9

Children's Puzzles

The Telegraph also has plenty of brain-teasers for kids, and below – see if you can draw like a brilliant illustrator

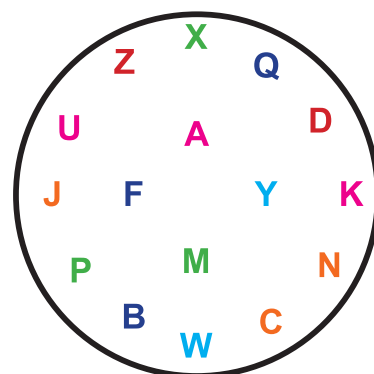
Junior *mindgym*

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across, following the instructions in each cell.

BEGINNER									ANSWER
3	x7	+15	÷9	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	5/8 OF THIS	-18	3/4 OF THIS	
INTERMEDIATE									ANSWER
56	4/7 OF THIS	+76	4/9 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-56	÷11	X BY ITSELF	3/4 OF THIS	
ADVANCED									ANSWER
16	x14	75% OF THIS	÷8	x15	40% OF THIS	-88	x3.5	-68	

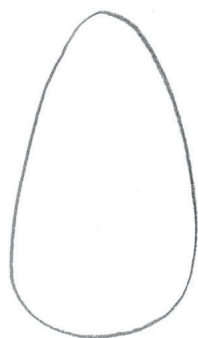
Word *Wheel*

Within the word wheel are most of the letters of the alphabet. However, a few are missing and it's your job to find out which ones. The missing letters rearranged will spell out the name of two items of clothing.

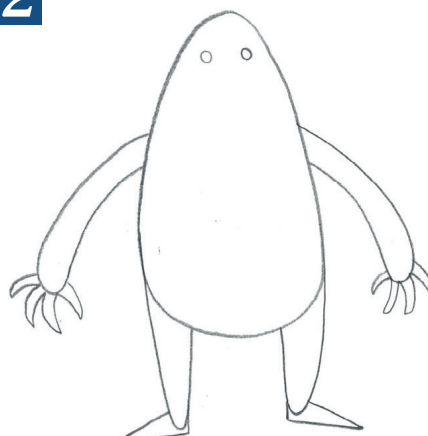


How to draw like Chris Judge Copy the four stages in the blank space below to create your own Lonely Beast! Meet Chris at 1pm today in The Cube

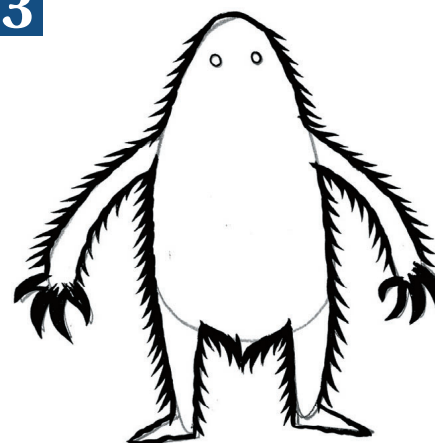
1



2



3



STEP 1. DRAW AN EGG SHAPE

STEP 2. ADD ARMS, LEGS AND EYES

STEP 3. COVER IN FUR

4



STEP 4. COLOUR IN BLACK (HAT AND TIE OPTIONAL)



Design

Form flows from function

First person Alice Rawsthorn lists high heels you can walk in and a soup spoon that won't spill among her design classics

If I had to identify non-negotiable components of good design, then whatever we are talking about absolutely has to fulfil its function. Another non-negotiable component of good design is that it has to be responsible, whether that is ethically or environmentally. It should also enliven our lives in some way – it might be by introducing us to a new activity that is particularly beguiling, or it might be because a design project fulfils its function

by solving a serious problem in our lives.

The Dutch designer Irma Boom designed my book *Hello, World*. Frankly, it was worth writing a book just to work with her. I have a collection of her books, and the catalogue of the collection at the Design Museum in Zurich is one of my favourites. I was thrilled when she said yes to working on my own book, but she is not the kind of designer you give a brief to. For her, it was a challenge, as my publisher didn't have as big a budget as she is accustomed to, but she has done a brilliant job.

Fashion has given me huge pleasure over the years. When I was a little girl, I was a tomboy, but even then I was very particular about the jeans and T-shirts I wore. I love Pierre Hardy's shoes. He is such a good designer and understands the physics of a

shoe perfectly, so there is just enough support in the straps for you to be able to wear them without acute discomfort. Pierre is delightful; whenever I go to Paris, I usually see him somewhere, generally holding forth at Café de Flore.

I love the vases by the Dutch product designer Hella Jongerius, who is based in Berlin. I first met her in about 2000. At that point, design had been a boys' club for a very long time, and Jongerius was really the first woman to become an A-list industrial designer. A lot of her work is about trying to imbue mass-manufactured industrial products with the kind of intimacy and quirkiness that we associate with handcrafted objects or much-loved antiques. In these pieces she has achieved this through the contrast of glass and ceramic, materials not typically used together, and by using the optical illusion of tape that seems to mask a gap between the two.

I also love examples of design that show lateral thinking. Arne Jacobsen is the grandee of Scandinavian modernism, and his soup spoon is an example of that kind of lateral thinking. It is part of a cutlery collection he designed in 1959 for the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen, for which he had also designed the building. When the hotel opened, the Danish media apparently poked fun at Jacobsen's cutlery. He designed the spoons for both left- and right-handed people by placing the handle on one or other side rather than in the



Sitting pretty: the design critic Alice Rawsthorn

middle. It means that if the spoon slips in your hand, it will naturally propel the soup away from you and into the bowl – and not, it is hoped, all over your outfit or your Pierre Hardy shoes.

Alice Rawsthorn was talking to Georgia Dehn. A longer version of this article can be read at telegraph.co.uk/property

Alice Rawsthorn speaks at 4pm today on the Digital Stage [Event 52]. 'Hello World: Where Design Meets Life' is published by Hamish Hamilton.

Lifechanging passions

Protecting the home of otters, rare bees and good old Ratty

A committed trust preserves endangered species in Gwent

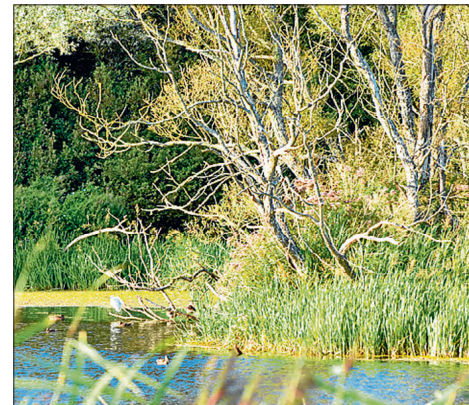
Gwent is justly proud of its living landscapes. It is the visionary Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT), celebrating its 50th anniversary, which is responsible for their rejuvenation. This nature conservation charity has received over £1.5 million of National Lottery funding to help it create an environment rich in wildlife that everyone can benefit from. The trust, part of a network of 47 local wildlife trusts nationwide, has grown from one small nature reserve, purchased by volunteers in 1963, to 30 nature reserves today.

The trust's chief executive Tom Clarke, who works with 24 other staff and 400 active volunteers, is infectious pride of its achievements. The shrill carder bee is the UK's rarest species of bumblebee. You can now find it in its natural, pollen-friendly habitat in the Gwent Levels. Here, where mink once prowled uncontrolled, you can also find the water vole. Ratty, as Clarke fondly refers to the UK's most threatened mammal, was re-introduced to the Magor Marsh Nature Reserve, near Newport, only this year, after 10 years' absence. Head north and you can find more than 50 different species of wild plant in one square metre of ancient hay meadow habitat in the Wye Valley and, to the west, otters swimming all the way up the river Ebbw.

"The otter is a top predator," says Clarke. "If there is an otter in the river, that means there are fish in there, too. And if there are fish, there are micro-organisms – and that means the water is clean."

This wasn't always the case, of course. "The river Ebbw runs through the Eastern Valleys, which is a socially deprived landscape," says Clarke. "It was very polluted as a result of mining. When it rained, the rivers would flow black or red, depending on whether coal or steel was being mined. Now the valleys have been cleaned up and we've seen plants and animals recovering."

Communities also benefit from a healthy ecosystem, says Clarke. "As a trust, it is exciting to point out to the locals here, people who have struggled financially, that their landscape is home to amazing species. They



begin to think differently about their environment. They lift their heads up. It boosts well-being. It is reconnection; of connecting people to wildlife."

Landowners and farmers are part of that holistic vision which includes a range of educational initiatives. GWT – part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, a distributor of National Lottery funding – works with the local landowner community to manage their land in a wildlife-friendly way. A by-product

“It is exciting to point out to locals here, who have suffered financially, that this is home to amazing species

of organic farming is the way it can trigger links to a cherished past. "If we can get a farmer to be more sparing on the pesticides, the botanical species he remembers as a boy will return," says Clarke. "A couple of generations ago, you would find several varieties of grasses, orchids, sedges – the entire bio-diversity spectrum was covered. But I don't want people just to see nature. I want them to feel it, too. Come and visit."

● gwentwildlife.org

Every week The National Lottery raises more than £35 million for good causes.



Solutions from p6&7

General Knowledge Crossword

Across: 11 Church, 12 Wallace, 13 Oakley, 14 Gray, 15 Macle, 16 Kitty, 17 Ward, 18 Woody, 20 Wallpaper, 22 Carey, 25 Skeleton, 7 Pumps, 28 Radium, 30 Archdeacon, 32 North, 34 Baba, 35 Kiln, 36 Bleak, 38 Strasbourg, 39 Rameau, 41 Gonzo, 42 Lorraine, 44 Kenya, 46 Trafalgar, 48 Delta, 51 Frog, 52 Leeds, 53 Combo, 54 Buoy, 55 Spruce, 56 Iceland, 57 Ballet.

Down: 1 Sherlock, 2 Drey, 3 Chump, 4 Kwacha, 5 Blue, 6 Backgammon, 7 Heathers, 8 Tokyo, 9 Skewbald, 10 George, 19 Dolphin, 21 Lupin, 23 Ytterbium, 24 Orchestra, 26 Nacre, 29 Umber, 31 Raita, 33 Rural, 34 Brocade, 37 Kingfisher, 38 Spool, 40 Eryngium, 41 Gardenia, 43 Nitrogen, 45 Europa, 47 Armada, 49 Allen, 50 Hobbs, 53 Clay, 54 Bilik.

Word Wheel: GLOVE - SHIRT
Junior Mind Gym: B: 9, I: 48, A: 65.

BrainGames

Test your wit and ingenuity every Saturday with our Games pages in Weekend, including the General Knowledge Prize Crossword, Bridge and Scrabble.

There is also a four-page 40 puzzle mind-bending Brain Games pull-out on the last Saturday of each month with Sudoku, Codewords and the £500 Prize Crossword.

For thousands more brain-teasing games, visit puzzles. telegraph.co.uk to access our online archive as well as more than 50 new puzzles added weekly.

Heard the one about the two Irishmen and the ex-nurse?

Comedy The Telegraph's comedy critic **Mark Monahan** takes his pick of the funniest stand-up on offer at the festival

I have been ever so slightly in love with Jo Brand ever since 2003, when I interviewed her about the show she was staging at Edinburgh that year. Having already been enchantingly (and hilariously) self-deprecating for half an hour or so, she waved my questions to a stop. "Anyway, that's quite enough about me," she said in that unmistakable Estuary drawl of hers. "Tell me about *you*. Where are you from, and how did *you* get into what you do for a living?"

An unusual turn of events in the realm of interviews – still more so, one could cheekily suggest, during an encounter with a stand-up – it was nevertheless somehow typical of one of the most lovable and enduring comics in Britain, and one of the funniest, too.

A former psychiatric nurse, Brand has the cheerfully black sense of humour that, as she confirmed, pretty much has to come with that job. What's more, it is she, more often than not, who is the butt of her own jokes.

"When I was pregnant," she related on stage that year, with her customary warm-hearted world-weariness, "I went to the doctor. He said: 'You do realise you'll be eating for two now, don't you?' I told him: 'Sod that – there's no way I'm cutting down.'"

My other two must-see comedians at Hay this year are both Irishmen. At 6ft 4in, and with a frame of woolly mammoth proportions, Dara Ó Briain was, from the outset, indisputably the "biggest" comedian

in Britain. But it has taken him just a few short years to go from playing sweaty 50-seater basement venues to being one of the biggest-name stand-ups, too.

This graduate of University College, Dublin – his subject was mathematics and theoretical physics, no less – crams more words, and more first-rate tales, into every set than any other comic in Britain. His way with an anecdote is unparalleled, and his subject matter – which in the past has ranged from the eccentricities of his homeland to a magnificently ill-fated ride on a dolphin's back – always effervesces with energy. He might well have already impressed you many times on BBC Two's *Mock the Week*, but trust me; he's even better live.

Ó Briain's compatriot Ed Byrne is of exactly the same calibre. In the past, this Perrier Prize-nominee has delivered sterling passages on topics as varied as his own inner class struggle and his glamorous then-fiancée's blood-curdling reply when he proposed to her, but he is also a master of the wrong-footing, absurdist aside. His suspicions about Bear Grylls back at the time of the BBC's fake-documentary furore? "I'll bet he's not even a real bear."

As for his comment on Michael Jackson's *Thriller*? Well, it's even better, but I won't spoil it here, just in case he wants to share it with Hay visitors himself.

Ed Byrne performs at 10pm today at the Llwyfan Cymru Wales Stage [Event 75]. Dara Ó Briain performs at 9.30pm on Wed 29 May [Event 261] and at 8.30pm on Thurs 30 May [Event 302], both at the Barclays Pavilion. Jo Brand performs on Saturday 1 June at 10pm in the Barclays Pavilion [Event 404].



Hugh Dennis

The star of *The Now Show* and *Outnumbered* talks to Marcus Brigstocke about the state of Britain; 4pm today at the Barclays Pavilion [Event 50].

Sandi Toksvig

Hay's sweetheart and international treasure performs a new show of stand-up, stories and fascinating facts called *My Valentine*; 7.10pm today at the Barclays Pavilion [Event 68].

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Phill Jupitus

Welsh pornstar, Dutch roadie, U-boat captain – or noted broadcaster and comedian? Adult content delivered childishly; 8.30pm today on the Wales Stage [Event 71].

Lee Mack

Would a show called *Mack the Life* lie to you? Find out everything you ever wanted to know about the man who's not going out; 7pm on Wednesday 29 May at the Barclays Pavilion [Event 254].



Hat-trick: clockwise from main, Dara Ó Briain, Jo Brand and Ed Byrne

Jo Caulfield

"Older. Wiser. Smarter. Meaner" reads the poster for her UK tour; 8.30pm on Sat 1 June at the Sky Arts Studio [Event 401].

Alan Davies

The tousled-haired star of *QI* and *Jonathan Creek* performs his first stand-up show for 10 years; 8.30pm on Sunday 2 June at the Barclays Pavilion [Event 302].

Today's highlights



In Google's Big Tent

Carl Bernstein, Jaime Abello, William Sieghart and Perihan Magden

7pm [Event 62]

After the Leveson inquiry in the UK, a panel of prominent international journalists discuss what press regulation looks like in the rest of the world. Chaired by Google's John Kampfner.

Around the festival

Elizabeth Chapman

10am Google's Big Tent [Event 30]

The director of the Women's Library talks to the Telegraph's Gaby Wood about the stories in the collection.

Julia Donaldson

10am Barclays Pavilion [Event HF2]

The author of *The Gruffalo* (pictured above) brings her characters to life in songs and performance.

Korky Paul

11.30am Digital Stage [Event HF5]

The artist behind Winnie the Witch is here with a story about Winnie's Dinosaur Day.

Eric Schmidt

1pm Barclays Pavilion [Event 39]

Google's executive chairman on the future of a connected world.

At the Barclays Pavilion

KT Tunstall

9.45pm [Event 74]

The singer-songwriter plays songs from her new album, *Invisible Empire/Crescent Moon*.

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Festivaloffer

Enjoy tapa and wine for £5

José Pizarro will bring a taste of Spain to the Hay Festival at pop-up restaurant Tapas España, in association with the Spanish Tourist Office. Try the ultimate festival food, based on menus from the chef's renowned Bermondsey Street sherry and tapas bar, José.

Present this page at Tapas España during the Hay Festival for one tapa dish and a glass of wine for £5



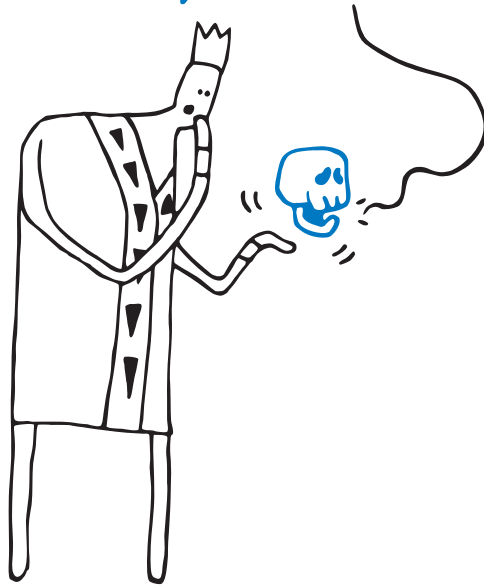
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To be or not
to be, that is
the question.



2bon2btitq



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Or Macbeth. Or Othello. Or even take a lyric from your favourite song. The more unusual the better. Try thinking of a memorable line like, 'To be, or not to be, that is the question' and then use numbers, symbols and mixed letters to recreate it:

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